

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Janet Bramley

DATE: March 10, 2000

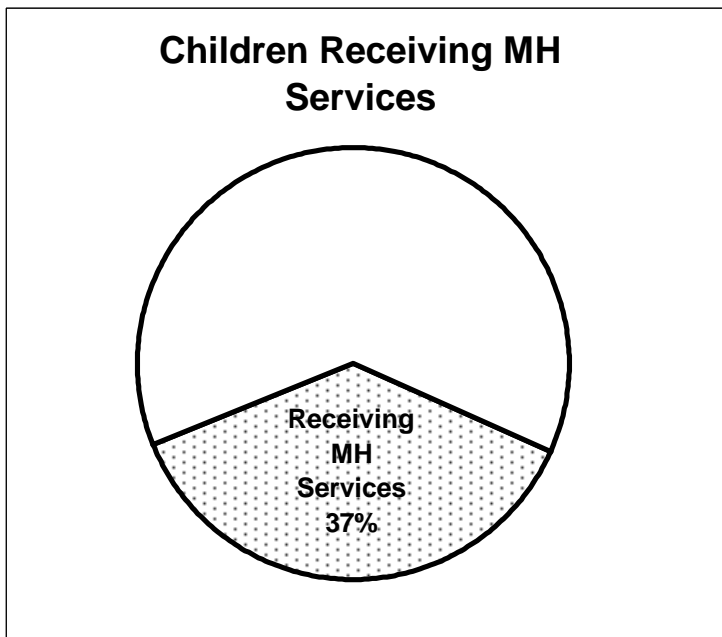
RE: Mental Health Services to Children with Parents in Jail

Over the past two weeks, we have reported initial results of our analysis of levels of criminal justice involvement of the parents of young children in Vermont. These results indicated that a substantial number of young children in Vermont have parents who were incarcerated during their early childhood. The results also indicate that a substantial number of incarcerated young adults are the parents of young children.

The final phase of this initial analysis focused on the degree to which community mental health services have been used by young children whose fathers had been incarcerated during the child's pre-school years. Results indicate that approximately one third of the children of incarcerated fathers had received services during the period of the study. Out of the total 2,527 children born in Vermont during 1991 through 1995 whose fathers had spent time in jail during their pre-school years, 942 had been served by a community mental health program in Vermont during 1991 through 1999.

We will be very interested in your suggestions for further research on issues that relate to parental incarceration. Please send your questions and suggestions to jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us or call 802-241-2638.

Young Children with Fathers in Jail: Percentage Receiving Mental Health Services



*Includes all children born FY 1991-1995 whose father had been incarcerated in their preschool year.